

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CPR-01 PM-04 SAM-01 NSC-05 OPR-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

SY-05 A-01 USSS-00 MMO-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /056 W

----- 103664

O R 301015Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6524

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUMMJNA COMUSJ YOKOTA AB

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: (OVIP, JDA MINISTER SAKATA)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US OF JDA MINISTER SAKATA

1. ASAHI NEWSPAPER REPORTED JANUARY 30 THAT JDA MINISTER SAKATA HAS GIVEN UP HIS PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF THE FLUID POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAPAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 AND THE US ELECTIONS IN THE SECOND HALF. THIS REPORT IS PREMATURE AND PARTIALLY INACCURATE. DEFENSE ATTACHE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SAKATA'S PERSONAL STAFF ON THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSED VISIT. STAFF BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SAKATA TO RESPOND TO RUMSFELD'S INVITATION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF BUDGET DELIBERATIONS THROUGH MARCH, AND A PROBABLE APRIL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR AN EARLY MAY ELECTION. (SAKATA'S STAFF ASKED US TO HOLD THE ELECTION TIMING VERY CLOSELY AS IT HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY DECIDED.)

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES SAKATA WILL HOLD OFF RESPONDING TO INVITATION UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS, AND THE SUBSEQUENT CABINET REFORMATION. SAKATA BELIEVES HE WILL
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REMAIN IN OFFICE IF MIKI SURVIVES ACCORDING TO HIS

STAFF. THEREFORE IT IS STILL POSSIBLE SAKATA MAY BE
ABLE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION DURING THE TIME FRAME
BETWEEN MIDDLE MAY AND THE BEGINNING OF ANY TIMING
RESTRICTIONS DESIRED BY THE US SIDE DUE TO THE
ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

HODGSON

BT

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: OVIP, JA, US, (SAKATA, MICHITA)
To: STATE DOD
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